

by the National Academy of Sciences, Transportation Research Board, whereby representatives of the U.S. domestic transit agencies travel to foreign countries to acquaint themselves with innovative technologies and solutions to transportation challenges. Similar tours could be organized for members of the business community. Moreover, FTA envisions establishing exchange programs which would bring foreign nationals to the United States, both to educate and inform the U.S. transportation industry, and to learn what the U.S. domestic industry may have to offer. This is a particularly promising venue for promoting the export of U.S. goods and services.

(6) Trade Missions

FTA could co-sponsor trade missions for various sectors of the U.S. domestic transportation industry either directly or through the auspices of other organizations such as the Commerce Department.

(7) Identification of Opportunities

FTA cannot hope to duplicate the resources of either government agencies whose principal function concerns international trade, or large international firms, when it comes to identifying overseas business opportunities. However, FTA can assist those entities in identifying domestic companies which are not yet engaged in international commerce, but could partner with the more sophisticated entities for mutual benefit. Additionally, implementation of our international agreements frequently involves discussion of technical matters that could lead to business opportunities for the U.S. domestic transportation industry.

III. Request for Comments

FTA is seeking comment on these proposed activities and expressions of interest from all stakeholders with an interest in the IMTP. After consideration of these comments, FTA will publish a final notice describing the activities to be undertaken under the IMTP.

Issued on: June 22, 1999.

Gordon J. Linton,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Maritime Administration

[Docket No. MARAD-1999-5857]

Information Collection Available for Public Comments and Recommendations; Notice and request for Comments

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, this notice announces the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) intentions to request approval for three years of an existing information collection entitled "Application for Construction Reserve Fund and Annual Statements."

DATES: Comments should be submitted on or before August 27, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Daniel Ladd, Financial Analyst, Office of Ship Financing, Maritime Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8122, Washington, D.C. 20590, telephone number—202-366-5744. Copies of this collection can also be obtained from that office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Title of Collection: Application for Construction Reserve Fund and Annual Statements.

Type of Request: Approval of an existing information collection.

OMB Control Number: 2133-0032.

Form Number: NA.

Expiration Date of Approval: Three years from the date of approval.

Summary of Collection of Information: The collection consists of an application required for all citizens who own or operate vessels in the U.S. foreign or domestic commerce and desire "tax" benefits under the Construction Reserve Fund (CRF) program. The annual statement sets forth a detailed analysis of the status of the CRF when each income tax return is filed. Checks for withdrawals from the CRF must be sent to MARAD for countersignature.

Need and Use of the Information: The application is required in order for MARAD to determine whether the applicant is qualified for the benefits and for the applicant to obtain benefits under the CRF program. The annual statements are required from each respondent in order for MARAD to assure that the requirements of the program are being satisfied.

Description of Respondents: Citizens who own or operate vessels in the U.S., foreign, or domestic commerce.

Annual Responses: 17 responses.

Annual Burden: 153 hours.

Comments: Comments should refer to the docket number that appears at the

top of this document. Written comments maybe submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20590. Comments may also be submitted by electronic means via the Internet at <http://dmses.dot.gov/submit>. Specifically, address whether this information collection is necessary for proper performance of the function of the agency and will have practical utility, accuracy of the burden estimates, ways to minimize this burden, and ways to enhance quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., et. Monday through Friday, except Federal Holidays. An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at <http://dms.dot.gov>.

Dated: June 22, 1999.

By Order of the Maritime Administrator.

Joel C. Richard,

Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Surface Transportation Board

[STB Finance Docket No. 33758]

CSX Transportation, Inc.—Trackage Rights Exemption—Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated, a wholly owned subsidiary of Canadian National Railway Company (CN), has agreed to grant overhead trackage rights to CSX Transportation, Inc. (CSXT) between CN's connection with Norfolk Southern Railway Company at Ecorse Junction, MI, at or near milepost 47.0, and CN's connection with CSXT at Toledo, OH, at or near milepost 0.6, on CN's Shoreline Subdivision, a total distance of approximately 46.4 miles. CSXT shall also have the right to enter and exit this trackage at the proposed connection between CN and Consolidated Rail Corporation at Denby, MI, at or near CN's milepost 34.1, or at any connection to be mutually agreed upon by CN and CSXT.

The transaction is scheduled to be consummated on or after June 24, 1999.

The purpose of the trackage rights is to improve service to customers by reducing congestion and delay in the West Detroit, Delray, and Ecorse Junction, MI, areas.

As a condition to this exemption, any employees affected by the trackage